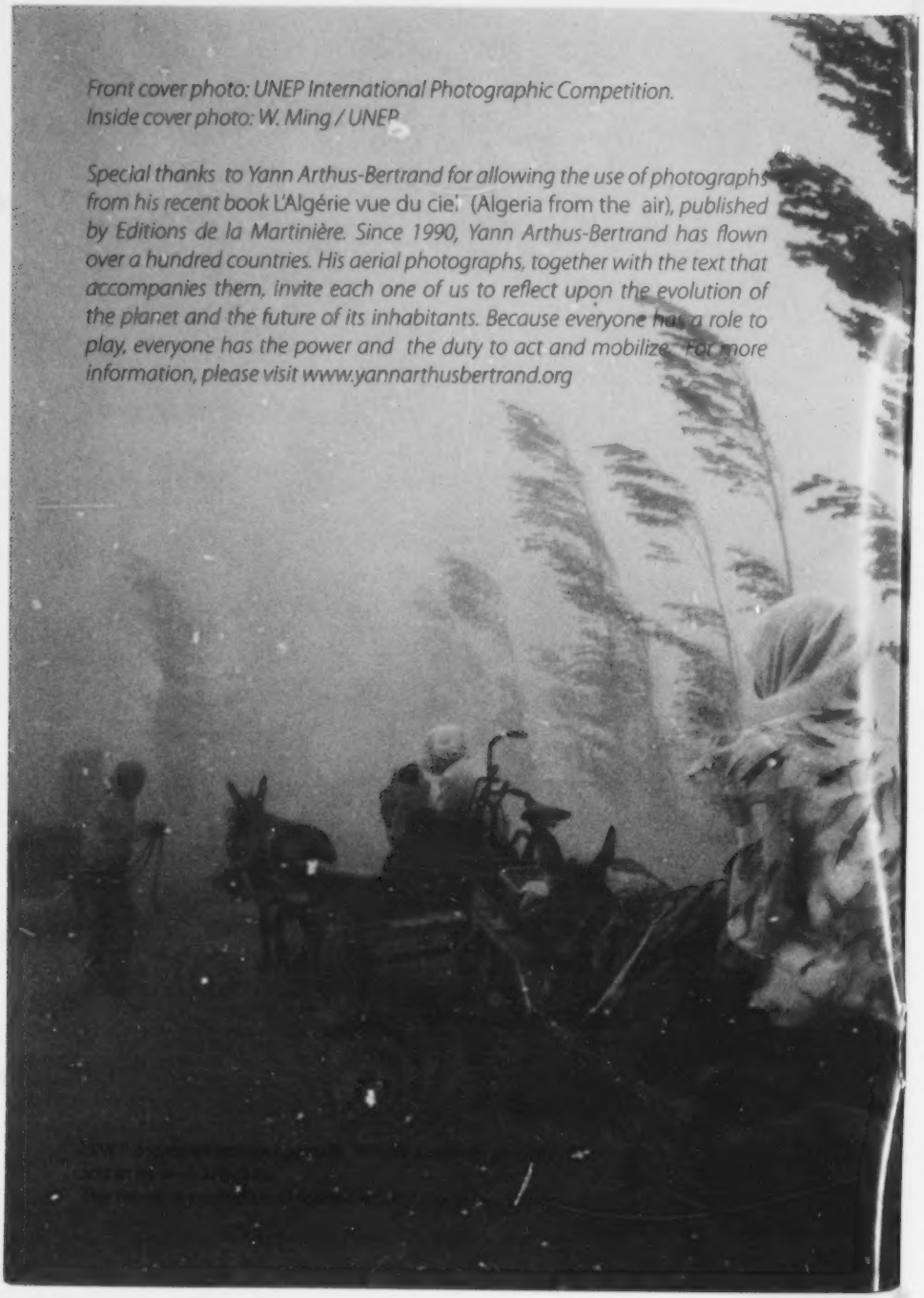
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
5 June 2006

DESERTS AND DESERTIFICATION

DON'T DESERT DRYLANDS!

UNEP



Front cover photo: UNEP International Photographic Competition.
Inside cover photo: W. Ming / UNEP

Special thanks to Yann Arthus-Bertrand for allowing the use of photographs from his recent book L'Algérie vue du ciel (Algeria from the air), *published by Editions de la Martinière. Since 1990, Yann Arthus-Bertrand has flown over a hundred countries. His aerial photographs, together with the text that accompanies them, invite each one of us to reflect upon the evolution of the planet and the future of its inhabitants. Because everyone has a role to play, everyone has the power and the duty to act and mobilize. For more information, please visit www.yannarthusbertrand.org*

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World Environment Day

World Environment Day is the United Nations flagship environmental event, celebrated every year on 5 June in more than 100 countries around the world. It was established in 1972 by the United Nations General Assembly and its commemoration is entrusted to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), whose international headquarters are located in Nairobi, Kenya.

The purpose of World Environment Day is to focus worldwide attention on the importance of the environment and stimulate political attention and action. The event seeks to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocate partnership, which will ensure that all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

Each year, a different city is chosen as the principal venue for the global celebration of World Environment Day. The host government and/or city, in cooperation with UNEP, set the tone for the event. A theme, slogan and logo are selected to be the focus for all World Environment Day information materials and promotional activities worldwide.

Interest in World Environment Day is growing each year, as evidenced by the number of countries which lend their support to this important United Nations Day, by the expanding list of municipalities, businesses and communities that participate, and by the hundreds of thousands of individuals who visit UNEP's World Environment Day web site.

Activities planned before and during World Environment Day are wide ranging. Essentially, it is a "people's event", with colourful activities such as street rallies, bicycle parades, green concerts, essay competitions in schools, tree planting, recycling and clean up campaigns.

World Environment Day is also meant to be an "intellectual" event, providing opportunities for seminars, workshops and symposiums on preserving the environmental health of our planet for the benefit of generations to come. The media play a critical role and the event inspires thousands of journalists around the world to report on the environment

The Day enhances political attention and action. Local and regional officials, Heads of State and Government and, of course, Ministers of the Environment deliver statements and commit themselves to care for the Earth. For example, in 1994, President Fidal Ramos called upon Filipinos to pause exactly at noon on 5 June and simultaneously "think clean, think green and with positive and joy-filled energy restore to nature the energy borrowed from it." More solemn pledges are made which lead to the establishment of permanent governmental structures dealing with environmental management and economic planning. World Environment Day also provides an opportunity to sign or ratify international conventions.

This year, for the first time, World Environment Day will include regional level celebrations in addition to the international celebrations in Algiers, Algeria.

The following cities and countries will host regional events:

- Africa

Dakar, Senegal

- Asia and the Pacific

Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan

- Europe

Sofia, Bulgaria

- Latin America and the Caribbean

Buenos Aires, Argentina

- North America

Arlington, VA United States of America

- West Asia

Manama, Bahrain

Algiers, the host city for the international celebrations of World Environment Day 2006. © Yann Arthus-Bertrand/ALTITUDE — Photograph excerpted from the book: *Algeria from the Air* — website: yannarthusbertrand.org

YEAR	HOST CITY	COUNTRY
2006	**Algiers**	**Algeria**
2005	San Francisco	USA
2004	Barcelona	Spain
2003	Beirut	Lebanon
2002	Shenzhen	China
2001	Torino/Havana	Italy/Cuba
2000	Adelaide	Australia
1999	Tokyo	Japan
1998	Moscow	Russian Federation
1997	Seoul	Republic of Korea
1996	Istanbul	Turkey
1995	Pretoria	South Africa
1994	London	United Kingdom
1993	Beijing	China
1992	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
1991	Stockholm	Sweden
1990	Mexico City	Mexico
1989	Brussels	Belgium
1988	Bangkok	Thailand
1987	Nairobi	Kenya

Protecting Drylands, Preventing Poverty

Message of United Nations
Secretary-General Kofi Annan

The theme of this year's observance of World Environment Day, "Don't Desert Drylands!", reminds us all, in the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, of the importance of caring for the world's vast areas of arid and semiarid land.

Drylands are found in all regions, cover more than 40 per cent of the Earth and are home to nearly 2 billion people – one-third of the world's population. For most dryland dwellers, life is hard and the future often precarious. They live on the ecological, economic and social margins. It is essential that we do not neglect them or the fragile habitats on which they depend.

Across the planet, poverty, unsustainable land management and climate change are turning drylands into deserts, and desertification in turn exacerbates and leads to poverty. It is estimated that between 10 and 20 per cent of drylands are already degraded. The problem is particularly acute in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where dryland degradation is a serious obstacle to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and is jeopardizing efforts to ensure environmental sustainability. These goals, which the world's governments have pledged to achieve by 2015, are essential components of a broader commitment to achieve a more secure future for humankind.

There is also mounting evicence that dryland degradation and competition over increasingly scarce resources can bring communities into conflict. Furthermore, people whose livelihoods and survival depend on drylands are swelling the ranks of environmental and economic refugees who are testing the already stretched resources of towns and cities across the developing world.

Desertification is hard to reverse, but it can be prevented. Protecting and restoring drylands will not only relieve the growing burden on the world's urban areas, it will contribute to a more peaceful and secure world. It will also help to preserve landscapes and cultures that date back to the dawn of civilization and are an essential part of our cultural heritage.

On this World Environment Day, in the 10th anniversary year of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, I urge governments and communities everywhere to focus on the challenges of life on the desert margins so the people who live there can look forward to a future of peace, health and social progress.

Dryland Degradation: A Common Threat

Message of the United Nations Environment Programme

The dry and delicate landscapes that we call deserts are among the world's most spectacular, harsh and beautiful. They support a specialized diversity of life, including some of humankind's most ancient cultures. On all continents, with the exception of uninhabited Antarctica, communities that live in or around deserts represent a direct link to knowledge, history and traditions that are increasingly imperilled by the dual pressures of globalization and environmental decline.

Deserts, and the cultures that have learned to live in harmony with them, are an important part of humanity's heritage. Desertification, on the other hand, is the manifestation of a multitude of destructive factors – almost all caused or made worse by human activity – that together represent one of the greatest challenges to environmental sustainability, human security and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

There is a fine line between dryland and desert—one which once crossed is hard to return from. It is vastly more cost-effective to prevent dryland degradation than to reverse it. It is therefore essential to focus on policies and technologies that will protect the world's arid, semiarid and dry subhumid areas. These areas, where rainfall is low and evaporation is high, may be fragile, but if managed well they are also fertile and capable of supporting the habitats, crops and livestock that sustain nearly one-third of humanity.

The fact that more than half the world's productive land is dryland emphasizes the critical importance of wise management at the global, national and local level. Impoverished land and impoverished people are two sides of the same coin. To raise public awareness about desertification, and to help to preserve dryland and desert communities, and the biological diversity on which they depend, the UN General Assembly declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

In support of the International Year, UNEP chose the theme 'Don't Desert Drylands' for World Environment Day 2006. The degradation of drylands is a global problem, but it is perhaps most acute in Africa, the least developed region of the world and the most vulnerable to environmental change. The host city for World Environment Day 2006 is Algiers, capital of Algeria. With its geography, history and culture inextricably bound with the world's greatest and best-known desert, the Sahara, and with its Environment Minister, Chérif Rahmani, the UN's honorary spokesman for the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, the country is ideally situated to highlight every facet of this complex issue.

Each year, on 5 June, World Environment Day provides an opportunity for communities and governments around the world to reflect on the essential role that the environment plays in our daily lives and our plans for the future. As the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment has highlighted, more than 60 per cent of the world's ecosystems are in decline or even degraded

to an extent that we can no longer rely on their services. These include the world's drylands, as well as forests, fisheries and even the air that we breathe. It is plain that, despite increasing knowledge and a growing list of political agreements and commitments, humankind continues to squander our natural capital.

For example, it is estimated that desertification and drought account for a $42 billion annual loss in food productivity worldwide. On top of this figure is the uncountable cost in human suffering and lives lost due to hunger and the need to abandon once productive land. These statistics are not only disturbing, they are preventable. This too, is the message of World Environment Day. As well as highlighting problems, each year the Day draws attention to the many available remedies.

Throughout its existence, UNEP has emphasized the importance of preventing and reversing land degradation. It played an integral role in establishing the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and is working alongside partners such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility, to implement it. UNEP has also gathered a comprehensive collection of success stories in the struggle against desertification in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, which together demonstrate that appropriate, replicable technological and policy solutions exist to address the challenges of the drylands.

The degradation of drylands is a growing problem that needs imaginative, collaborative and multi-sectoral action. It is both a result of and a contributor to climate change; it is both the cause and the consequence of poverty. If left unchecked it threatens the future food security of humanity's steadily growing population and the stability of communities and countries in all regions. Therefore, on this World Environment Day, UNEP's message to the world is 'Don't Desert Drylands!'.

Calling for a World Charter on Deserts and Desertification

Message of H. E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika , President of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria

Algeria is greatly honoured to have been chosen by the United Nations Environment Programme to host the 2006 World Environment Day celebrations. We are particularly proud to have been chosen as this year's focus is on deserts and desertification.

The official slogan for WED 2006, 'Don't Desert Drylands', addresses sustainable development in the deserts. In order to respond to the concerns and expectations of many countries on this issue, the UN General Assembly adopted, at Algeria's instigation, Resolution 58/211, which established 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

Through its dual role as host country of World Environment Day and as the official 'voice' for the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification, Algeria is receiving international acknowledgement for its efforts towards environmental protection and balanced and sustainable development, as well as its wide and varied activities aimed at protecting the environment. Algeria is keen to establish an international, innovative and sincere partnership, based on the principles of fairness, solidarity and common responsibility.

My country is delighted to host WED 2006 on the African continent, large sections of which are covered by deserts and drylands, making it the most affected by and most vulnerable to the devastating consequences of the alarming degradation of fertile soils. Persistent and cyclical droughts, frequent natural disasters, poverty, migration, and other dramatic aspects of underdevelopment have had numerous consequences that cannot be confined to narrow national and regional contexts and spaces because they go beyond the political and natural borders of nation states. These numerous consequences have in fact been underlined on many occasions by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a unique and innovative African initiative of which Algeria is one of the key instigators is, without a doubt, a resolute and responsible response to the major challenges that the continent faces today. With a wealth of natural and human potential, often little or badly used, Africa must face the challenges of globalisation, especially those related to better governance and steady and sustainable development, the principal pillar of which is the environmental dimension. Combating desertification, conservation and the integrated and rational development of arid, semiarid,

mountainous and forest areas, preserving water-resources and reducing poverty are therefore key objectives that must be quickly addressed, in order to put an end to the devastating impacts of underdevelopment on the continent.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the international community is called upon to reflect on the possibility of forging a sustainable partnership, responsible and innovative, which should be able to contribute effectively to the success of this exemplary African initiative in Eco-Development. In so doing, it will be answering the cries of despair, the aspirations and expectations of nations and peoples who must cruelly endure daily hardship and an uncertain future. We must face up to the fact that the sometimes irreversible degradation of cultural, natural and agricultural heritage, of fragile ecosystems and biodiversity, the rapid spread of deserts, as well as inadequate international response and local efforts to combat desertification, aggravate conditions of poverty across the world, deepening the crisis on a global scale.

In 2005 in San Francisco, under the slogan 'Green Cities: Plant for the Planet', we were invited to adopt accords for the creation of a network of cities striving for a sustainable Urban Environment. This year, we call for the adoption of a World Charter on Deserts and to Combat Desertification to mark World Environment Day and the closing of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification. In this way, we hope to contribute to achieving some of the Millennium Development Goals, goals which were reinforced and renewed by the decisions made by Heads of State and Government during the World Summit held in New York in September 2005.

All our efforts aim to sustainably reinforce our common efforts towards the development of human rights, a healthy environment, a decent and fulfilled life and a global, real, and sustainable development, for all. It is therefore our duty to unite and consolidate our efforts and means and to make them work for our common conviction, that of a common future, for the generations of today and tomorrow and for their legitimate right to live on a protected and safe planet.

Let this World Environment Day be an opportunity for us all to be messengers of world peace and harmony, messengers of hope for the future – that of our children and that of our planet.

Painting by:
Rial Noureddine, 14 years old,
Tizi Ouzou,
Algeria.

Don't Desert Drylands!

Message of H. E. Mr. Cherif Rahmani, Minister of Environment of Algeria President of the Foundation Deserts du Monde, Honorary Spokesperson of the UN International Year of Deserts and Desertification

This slogan, in the form of an urgent call to action, defines the context in which World Environment Day 2006 will be celebrated. Algeria, my country, is honoured to have been chosen by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as host of this day. Algeria is doubly honoured, first and foremost because the majority of its territory comprises desert and also because, by choosing Algeria, it is the whole of Africa that is honoured.

This year, the theme builds on Resolution 58/211 under which the General Assembly of the UN proclaimed 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification. This decision represents a welcome outcome of the multifaceted steps taken by my country on deserts, initiated and developed for many years, but that has certainly experienced a revival since the year 2000.

Many efforts, many initiatives and many plans of action have thus been successful. Algeria has committed itself, resolutely and consistently, to policies that not only mobilize but unify as well.

Under the innovative environmental policies initiated by His Excellency Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Republic, we have developed and conclusively and visibly expanded on the commitments made during the Summits on the Environment and Sustainable Development of Rio then Johannesburg, as well as the UN's Summit on the Millennium Development Goals. We have also tried, and often succeeded, at our level, to encourage partnerships and mediums of cooperation and dialogue at a regional and international level, while always ensuring that our approach respected common principles, such as those pertaining to "shared but differentiated responsibility".

Should one not therefore, consider that, by choosing Algeria as the focal point for the celebrations in 2006, the aspirations and very valid expectations awakened by the UN Resolution declaring this the International Year of Deserts and Desertification to have been consecrated?

It is in any case justifiable that we once again declare ourselves honoured by this selection, in as much as the Resolution was adopted following the initiative taken by my country and that of the Fondation Déserts du Monde created under the patronage of H. E. Adbelaziz Bouteflika.

I have the pleasure and the privilege to reaffirm here, in my capacity of Ambassador, Honorary Spokesperson of the UN for the 2006 commemoration, how seriously we take the demands of the mission we have been given.

We must first give back hope to the millions of people in drylands. Hope alone, however, can not satisfy expectations when survival is often the prime issue. We not only feel concern at the often chronic material poverty in which entire communities are sinking in desert and semi-desert

regions. Their poverty is, in our view, the supreme issue. And it is there that we draw on the reasons for our actions and our commitment.

Algeria will host a high level meeting at the end of the year, in the context of the International Year on Deserts and Desertification. The meeting will take stock of all that was warmly and generously thought of and retained concerning deserts and its people. This will be the crowning achievement, not only suggested but also programmed, of a series of actions throughout the months that make up this symbolic year.

The fight against desertification is an unending one. The fight against poverty is an imperative one, which now categorically forces itself upon us.

So what territory in reality is touched by our action? It is obviously the planet as a whole. For, if deserts only appear here and there in man's view, the heart of human sensitivity, on the other hand, resides everywhere.

We must speak up everywhere in favour of the deserts and the populations that inhabit them and that have formed such extraordinary civilizations, such extraordinary cultures!

We must sensitize man everywhere because where man's heart and spirit are conquered, they put themselves at the service of the causes that have moved them positively.
Let us always remember that we are at the service of one slogan: Don't desert drylands! Because that slogan puts us at the service of those who, though possibly unaware of our efforts, nonetheless and paradoxically, expect much from us.

Facts about Deserts and Desertification

Deserts are harsh dry environments, where few people live. Nevertheless many species of flora and fauna have adapted to live in deserts, and they support a wide diversity of life.

Desert toads burrow into the sand and lie dormant for months until the rains come, when they emerge to feed, breed and lay eggs. Some desert mammals have evolved long ears or other appendages to dissipate body heat. Others get their entire moisture needs from the food they eat. In Namibia, the Welwitschia mirabilis plant persists by drawing moisture from the daily fogs that sweep over the Namib Desert.

Because of their highly specialized nature, desert species are particularly vulnerable to habitat disturbance. Surprisingly little is known and documented about deserts in terms of biological, ecological and cultural characteristics. The different deserts of the world are unique in terms of origin, evolutionary history and climatic patterns. They need tailored management and policies to protect them.

Drylands are characterized by low rainfall and high rates of evaporation. They occupy 41 per cent of Earth's land area and are home to more than 2 billion people. Half of all people living in poverty live in drylands. They depend heavily on environmental services for their basic needs.

People living in drylands, 90 per cent of whom live in developing countries, lag far behind the rest of the world in human well-being and development indicators. In developing countries, infant mortality in drylands averages about 54 children per 1,000 live births, twice as high as in non-dryland areas, and 10 times the infant mortality rate in developed countries.

Desertification is defined by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification as "land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities." Land degradation in drylands is defined as the reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity of drylands. It affects one third of the Earth's surface and more than 1 billion people.

The consequences of desertification and drought include food insecurity, famine and poverty. The ensuing social, economic and political tensions can create conflicts, cause more impoverishment and further increase land degradation. Growing desertification worldwide threatens to increase by millions the number of poor forced to seek new homes and livelihoods.

Between 10 and 20 per cent of drylands are already degraded. The problem is worst in the developing world. The total land area affected by desertification is estimated as between 6 and 12 million square kilometers (for comparison the countries of Brazil, Canada and China are all between 8 and 10 million square kilometers).

Drylands contain 43 per cent of the world's cultivated lands. Land degradation causes an estimated loss of US $42 billion a year from agricultural production. Nearly one-third of the world's cropland has been abandoned in the past 40 years because erosion has made it unproductive. Each year an additional 20 million hectares of agricultural land either becomes too degraded for crop production, or becomes lost to urban sprawl.

Over the last three decades the need for higher agricultural yields to feed the growing world population has exerted increasing pressure on land and water resources. Compared to the 1970s, 2.2 billion more people need to be fed today. So far, food production has kept pace with population growth, but continued expansion means we may need 60 per cent more food in the next 30 years. The growing need for agricultural land accounts for 60-80 per cent of the world's deforestation.

Desertification is found to some degree on 30 per cent of irrigated lands, 47 per cent of rain-fed agricultural lands, and 73 per cent of rangelands. Annually, an estimated 1.5 to 2.5 million hectares of irrigated land, 3.5 to 4 million hectares of rain-fed agricultural land, and about 35 million hectares of rangeland lose all or part of their productivity due to land degradation.

Restoring soil lost by erosion is a slow process. It can take 500 years for 2.5 cm

of soil to form. Dust storms are a growing problem in many areas, affecting the health of people and ecosystems both locally and at a great distance. Thick storms rising out of the Gobi Desert affect much of China, Korea and Japan, cause increased incidences of fever, coughing and sore eyes during the dry season. Dust emanating from the Sahara has been implicated in respiratory problems as far away as North America and has affected coral reefs in the Caribbean.

The UN General Assembly declared 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification. 2006 also marks the 10th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. The Convention has a full complement of 191 Parties, representing all UN Member States.

The consequences of desertification include:

- diminished food production, reduced soil productivity and a decrease in the land's natural resilience;
- increased downstream flooding, reduced water quality, sedimentation in rivers and lakes, and the siltation of reservoirs and navigation channels;
- aggravated health problems due to wind-blown dust, including eye infections, respiratory illnesses, allergies, and mental stress;
- loss of livelihoods forcing affected people to migrate.

Drylands remain impoverished because:

- poor people living in drylands, especially women, seldom have a strong political voice and often lack essential services, such as health care, agricultural extension and education; women are also regularly discriminated against under land ownership regulations;
- dryland dwellers often lack agricultural necessities, such as tools, fertilizers, water, pesticides and seeds, they have inadequate access to markets and their products seldom fetch reasonable prices due to low quality;
- local communities often fail to benefit from other local resources, such as mined minerals, or wildlife and other tourist attractions;
- access to water and rights over this resource are often inadequate; and water resources are often poorly managed, leading to overuse and salinization;
- land is often overcultivated and overgrazed, leading to declining productivity;
- dryland communities are especially vulnerable to drought; they often depend on livestock or subsistence crops and lack reserves of food, money, insurance or other forms of social safety nets to cope with difficult years.

Fighting poverty in drylands requires that all these problems are addressed simultaneously.

The UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment notes that it is easier to prevent desertification than to reverse it. Population pressure and bad land management practices are the cause of degradation. Better management of crops, more careful irrigation and strategies to provide non-farming jobs for people living in drylands could help to address the problem.

The World Environ

77 ways to celebrate

A
Announcements by Environment Ministries
Art made of recycled materials
Auctions to benefit an environmental project
Award presentations (for environment-related activities)
Awareness campaigns

B
Bicycle parades/races
Broadcast of public service announcements (TV and radio)

C
Carpools
Celebrity support
Clean-up campaigns
Competitions (banner, drawing, essay, painting, poster, poetry)
Conferences on the environment

D
Debates on environment issues
Discussions (small and large groups)
Distribution of leaflets, brochures and posters

E
Environmental education programmes in schools
Establishment of governmental structures dealing with environmental management
Excursions to nature sites
Exhibitions (drawings, posters, photos and paintings)

F
Fairs
Festivals
Film festivals on the environment/screening of environmental films
Football matches

G
Green concerts
Guidelines on how the community can undertake environmental protection activities

H
Hoist banners at major intersections in cities

I
Involve various partners (NGOs, ministries of environment, youth groups, celebrities, business, industry, private sector)
Issuance of First Day Covers (stamps)

J
Join an environmental group

K
Keep your neighbourhood clean
Kick start an environmental campaign
Know your rights

L
Launch of government environment policies, books and reports
Legislation

M
March for the environment
Media coverage and activities (TV and radio programmes and interviews, newspaper articles, editorials, letters to the editor on the environment)

N
Network
Never litter

ment Day Alphabet

O
Organic farming/cooking
Organize a special event

P
Parades
Performances (plays, songs, poetry)
Promotional materials related to theme (T-shirts, stickers, bookmarks)
Puppet shows for children featuring environmental messages

Q
Quizzes related to the theme for schools, youth groups, company staff, etc. . .

R
Rainwater harvesting
Rallies
Ratify international environmental conventions
Recycle
Rehabilitate natural habitats
Repair
Reuse
Rickshaw rally

S
Save paper
Seminars
Sign international environmental conventions
Sort rubbish
Speeches
Sponsorship from private sector
Stickers with environmental messages
Symposia

T
Tours of nature sites
Tree planting
T-shirts with WED theme

U
Use sustainable modes of transportation (walking, jogging, cycling, skating, carpool)

V
Vehicle emission monitoring
Visits to botanical gardens and other environmental sites
Voice your concerns
Volunteer for organizations such as Clean Up the World

W
Waste collection
Waste composting
Workshops
Write plays, poems, songs
Write letters to your civic leaders, members of parliament, national government and newspapers

X
X-press your concern for the environment

Y
Youth-led activities

Z
Zero emissions

Inspiring examples

Wanted! Seas and Oceans – Dead or Alive? and in 2005 with the theme: ***Green Cities: Plan for the Planet.***

AFRICA

BENIN

Cotonou

BOTSWANA

Gaborone

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Goma

Gaborone, Botswana, 2005

Community Participation in Urban Forestry in Goma: A Participatory Approach and Waste Management in the City.

EGYPT

Hurghada

LES VILLES VERTES
Un plan pour la planète
L'IMPLICATION DU PUBLIC A LA FORESTERIE URBAINE (
PROBLEMATIQUE DE LA GESTION DE DECHETS MENAGERS
Kachieche

Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, 2005

ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa

GHANA

Accra

KENYA

Dadaab

Nairobi, Kenya, 2005

collection, tree planting efforts, stair-walking competitions and football matches – songs and dances, essays and plays illustrating the theme and accompanied by colourful banners produced by the refugees, were showcased at selected venues. The German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) reinforced the message with appropriately emblazoned T-shirts and caps, and awarded prizes for environmental achievements during the year.

Kakuma

World Environment Day was celebrated in a significant way in the refugee camp of Kakuma – a city of 87,000 refugees in northern Kenya. The event focused on the cleaning of the camp with emphasis on the reduction of plastic bags. The best and cleanest block received an award. In schools, pupils from 13 years of age and upwards wrote essays on the best way of keeping the environment in and around the refugee camp clean. In addition, tree planting activities were intensified.

Five artistically painted Metro Shuttle buses drove around the city with colourful messages on the 2005 World Environment Day theme. The Kenya Bus Company and Crown Berger Paints, for the second year, offered buses and donated enough paint for the creative visualization of the 2005 World Environment Day slogan: *Green Cities: Plan for the Planet!*

LIBERIA

Monrovia

The Environment Theme Group of Liberia under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and with the support of UNEP, UNDP and UNMIL led World Environment Day celebrations in the capital city Monrovia with the theme: *Green Cities – Plan for the Planet!*

A Liberian National Police band led a march of approximately 1,500 World Environment Day banner-wielding EPA staff and students through the streets of the capital.

Watamu , Kenya, 2005

Nairobi

The 2005 World Environment Day activities were marked by a variety of lively, vibrant and artistic events on the UN compound, at schools, in local communities, at roundabouts, cultural institutions, universities and in the Karura and Aberdare Forests, just to name a few.

The march culminated at City Hall with the delivery of remarks by the EPA, the UN, academia and the NGO sector. In addition, UNHCR adopted the theme Green your camps: Improve Natural Resource Management whereby major stakeholders planted trees in a transit camp.

Monrovia, Liberia, 2005

LIBYA

Tripoli

The National Solid Waste Management Centre (NSWMC) organized a clean-up and awareness campaign on the environment for the general public under the slogan *Cleaning the Beach*. The activity was organized by the International Organization for Peace, Care and Relief. The Canadian Ambassador, youth and guides among others participated. A drawing competition was also organized by the coalition, initially with the support of UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia.

MALAWI

Mulanje

Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust commemorated World Environment Day on 6 June 2005 at the Mulanje Community Leasing with a community competition among school children. Following the race, speeches, poems and songs based on the *Green Cities* theme were performed.

MAURITIUS

Curepipe

The aims of the World Environment Day activities planned in Mauritius was to attract the public's attention and to get them to actively participate in cleaning their environment. The Curepipe Municipal Council in Curepipe in order to restore the area's beauty for future generations, the project consisted of creating a botanical garden, a relaxing area, a path, concession stalls and a parking area. The theme used to promote sustainable, social and economic development.

MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo

The Mozambican Minister for Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Luisa Dias Diogo, celebrated World Environment Day by inaugurating a landfill for the disposal of solid waste at Matola Rio, some 15 kilometres from the capital Maputo. The landfill is owned by the Municipality of Matola, and its construction was financed by the Government of Mozambique through the National Environment Fund (FUNAB). It was built by the Mozambican company MISTAL. The landfill can process 1,500 tonnes of industrial waste a month. The disposal of waste from industries in Maputo, Matola and Beira is the second for at least the next five years.

NAMIBIA

Windhoek

Environment and Tourism Deputy Minister Leon Jooste announced at the World Environment Day 2005 celebrations that his Ministry, the City of Windhoek and the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry had initiated an environmental management training programme for the capital. He also announced that the Ministry was finalizing the Pollution and Waste Management Bill and associated regulations. These laws would

Hurghada , Egypt. 2004

NIGERIA

Lagos

Ride-for-life Green Concert

Surulere

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town

the Academy in Tokai with 15 satellite venues. A total of 48 organizations with 65 speakers presented 77 different activities (eg. Rivers for Life, Learn Not To Burn, Drug Awareness, Wetlands, Know Your Birds, Children Living on the Streets, Discover Science, HIV/AIDS and Food). The programme was open to all primary and special schools in the City and was free of charge. To ensure that all schools had an equal opportunity to participate, especially marginalized schools, bus transport (two buses per school) were made available free of charge. A total of 241 buses were used. On 5 June an Eco-Schools Teacher's Workshop, with about 150 teachers, learners and service providers, was organized. During the week there was a Teachers' Resource Centre with 16 exhibitors to assist teachers and schools with learning support materials – most of which were free.

Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, 2004

Pretoria

South Africa celebrated National Environment Week to coincide with World Environment Day 2005 under the theme *Our environment belongs to all who live in it*. As part of the celebrations, the National Assembly debated the subject with special emphasis on climate change and the Kyoto Protocol. Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk formally designated the first group of Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) and issued them "Green Scorpions" IDs. The inspectors are authorized to carry out a range of enforcement powers varying from routine inspections to search and seizure operations, setting up roadblocks and arresting suspects. The Minister also launched the first in a series of countrywide Clean Air meetings in Bapatona to engage communities most affected by air pollution.

RWANDA

Kigali

In Rwanda, Environment Minister Drocella Mukarwemeza launched environment week which was dedicated to protecting areas around the River Nyabarongo so that soils are not washed off into the river.

SOMALIA

Berbera

Every year the organization Tovenco in Berbera organizes a ceremony on the occasion of World Environment Day. In 2005, they mobilized the community through the media by putting on plays about the environment.

SWAZILAND

Mbabane

Two weeks before World Environment Day, a variety of activities in line with the 2005 theme, were carried out in the country's main towns and cities. They included: a press conference by the Swaziland Environment Authority; the protection and cleaning of a stream at Siteki Town; the cleaning of a pond at Pigg's Peak Town; a breakfast meeting for Parliament Portfolio Committees to sensitize them about World Environment Day; a joint tree-planting and clean-up campaign at Manzini City; a mini-launch for the rehabilitation of public parks; declaration of a wetland as a protected area in Nhlangano Town; a seminar at the University of Swaziland; and the main celebrations at Pigg's Peak Town (including an exhibition) on 4 June.

TANZANIA
Dar es Salaam

To commemorate World Environment Day 2005, the Malaika Women's Environmental Management Society organized solid waste collection and road sweeping, as well as a tree planting activity.

TOGO

Lomé

On 5 June 2004, a network of 13 NGOs, the National Consumers and Environment Alliance of Togo (ANCE/Togo) organized two activities to celebrate World Environment Day.

The first, an information meeting, chaired by the director of ANCE/Togo touched on a number of issues affecting oceans and was by the region's largest industrial companies including BTC Togo, Benin Brewery, and NOTO and the agricultural overuse of chemical fertilizers in the coastal regions and near rivers. The meeting called upon the government and the public to take appropriate action to protect the marine ecosystem.

On the afternoon of World Environment Day, more than 4,000 people marched through the main streets of the capital Lomé. The hour-long march helped draw the country's attention to the growing risks to seas and oceans and the need to adopt urgent measures to protect them.

ZIMBABWE

Bindura

To mark World Environment Day 2005, the organization Environment Action Support Youth (EASY) implemented a Zero Waste Initiative at Bindura University by developing and implementing a sustainable waste management plan. They also cleaned up Bindura Town and Hospital.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

Each year World Environment Day is celebrated amongst Toyota's 1,900 employees in Australia with competitions, sausage sizzles and tree seedlings handed out. This year, Toyota's internal theme and focus was "waste". They distributed approximately 2,500 re-usable "Green Bags" to their employees.

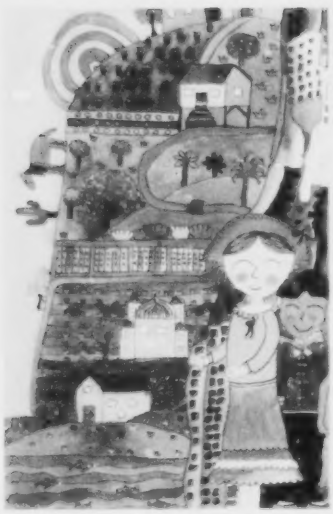
To coincide with World Environment Day 2004, eight high-profile Australians made a national plea over clear-felling. More than 300 people attended a public meeting in Perth, Western Australia, and 600 were present at a meeting in Brisbane. About 700 attended a meeting in Adelaide and about 1,600 were in Sydney. Rallies were also held in Melbourne and Sydney. In Hobart, World Environment Day was celebrated on the Parliament House lawns with dancers, bands, stalls and speeches.

The 2004 Lithgow Environmental Awards were held in conjunction with World Environment Day at the Lithgow Council Chambers.

Going with the World Environment Day 2005 Green City theme, Toshiba Australia Pty Ltd introduced an extensive recycling programme.

World Environment Day, 5 June 2006

Kingscote, Kangaroo Island



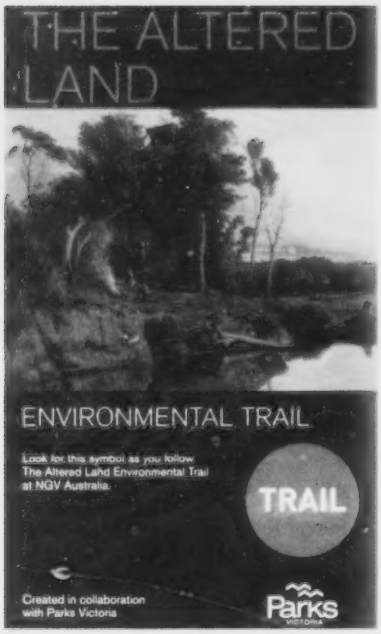
Melbourne

Nelson Bay

Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive!

Brisbane

Perth


THE ALTERED LAND
ENVIRONMENTAL TRAIL
Look for this symbol as you follow The Altered Land Environmental Trail at NGV Australia.
TRAIL
Created in collaboration with Parks Victoria
Parks
VICTORIA

Queensland

St. Kilda, Victoria

Portland

Sydney

Tasmania

BANGLADESH

Dhaka

CHINA

Beijing

Shenzhen, China, 2005

Hong Kong

Liaoning

Shenzhen

INDIA

Chandigarh

Imphal

Maharashtra

Mumbai

India, 2004

Mysore

World Environment Day, 5 June 2006.

New Delhi

Trivandrum

Yogyakarta

KOREA

Seoul

INDONESIA

South Kalimantan

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Uijongbu

Tangerang

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur

Penang

MONGOLIA

Ulaanbaatar

Malaya

NEPAL

Kathmandu

NEW ZEALAND

PAKISTAN

Islamabad

Karachi

Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?

Islamabad, Pakistan, 2005

Peshawar

The Human Resource Social Welfare Society International celebrated World Environment Day 2004 with an Environmental Award ceremony in Peshawar. The ceremony was the culmination of a three-month campaign, which commenced with Earth Day celebrations on 22 April. It is estimated that one million people participated during the three-month period.

Usta Muhammad

The Society for Human Advancement and Disadvantaged Empowerment (SHADE) celebrated World Environment Day for the first time in the region in 2005. Activities included a walk, a seminar entitled *Save the Planet*, and a poster competition among students of different schools. In addition, an environmental newscast was broadcast throughout the day on a local TV station.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Alotau, Milne Bay Province

To commemorate World Environment Day 2005, Conservation International (CI) organized a Green and Clean Day. Students, town authorities, businesses, prison inmates and the general public came together to clean up the town and plant trees. In addition, CI and the Town Authority launched a continuing Coastal Care Programme and introduced the Alotau Green and Clean Committee, who will be responsible for initiating clean and green programmes throughout the year. Posters and brochures were prepared for the event and youths painted waste drums with clean and green messages.

Port Moresby

The Department of Environment and Conservation, on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea, launched the celebrations for World Environment Day 2004 at Port Moresby National High School on 1 June where the Prime Minister, Sir Michael Thomas Somare, gave the keynote address. Activities included traditional songs and dances, poem readings by students, drama and choir performances. The most important event was a tree planting, with the participation of a number of dignitaries who planted trees that were named and tagged after them. The current Metaka Wildlife Sanctuary was officially dedicated to the Prime Minister and student representatives from some 15 schools in the capital were present.

PHILIPPINES

Muntinlupa City

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2005, the Muntinlupa City Ecological Solid Waste Management Board organized a number of initiatives, which took place throughout the month of June, including a motorcade, a gathering of all Public Utility Jeepneys (PUJ) and Tricycle Operators (TODA), a free petrol

Corry Fian Angelia,
12 years old,
Indonesia

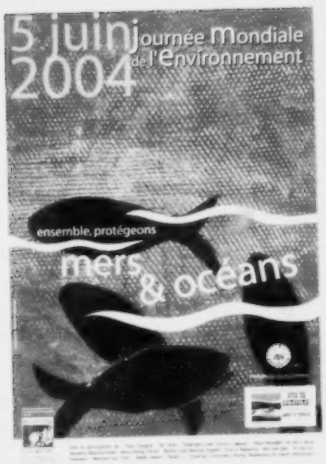
SINGAPORE

Galle, Sri Lanka, 2004

SRI LANKA

Galle, Southern Province

TAHITI FRENCH POLYNESIA



Rayong, Thailand, 2005

THAILAND

Bangkok

Lampang

Green Cities - Plan for the Planet!

involved in a symposium and an exhibition on how to preserve the environment. Activities on the day included interactive community games, displays, artwork and crafts, quizzes and information on sustainable development. In addition a concert was organized and leaflets distributed to raise awareness about the Day and the role of the public in protecting the environment.

Pattaya

On 7 June 2004, in keeping with the year's theme, members of the government and the private sector – with the aid of Pattaya school children – went to Pattaya Beach to clean the beach front and enjoy some fun and games. The day was split into two main competitions: the first World Environment Day poster design among the city's schools and the second, the best items made out of recycled materials. Each aimed to educate the youth and the public on the necessity for the environment.

Rayong

Seven Young Environmental Envoys (EYEEs) organized celebrations for World Environment Day (WED) with the support of Seven Thai and the Klangyachet Municipality of Rayong led by Suradej Ittipanont, Mayor of Klangkachet Municipality. In line with the theme of Green Cities and the slogan *Plan for the Planet!*, WED across the country joined hands with their counterparts from Saitom Samggad Group, community-based youths, members of Baan Noen Rayom, as well as Bayer's employees, to replant the field with more than a thousand mangroves, supported by the Marine and Coastal Resources Department, Rayong office.

VIETNAM

Ho Chi Minh

As they have done in past years, the newspaper Liberated Saigon celebrated World Environment Day with articles related to the theme, *Green Cities - Plan for the Planet!*

EUROPE

BELGIUM

Brussels

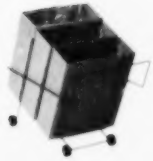
In 2004, Green Week, organized by the European Commission (EC) and the Directorate-General (DG) of the Environment, took place from 1 to 4 June. The EC and the DG announced the launch of the new 'Clean Maritime Award' which was presented for the first time on 1 June as part of Green Week. This award was very much in keeping with this year's World Environment Day theme – sea and oceans. The awards were announced in the European Commission's Communication on a European Union strategy to reduce atmospheric emissions from seagoing ships. Their objective was to give positive publicity to environmentally responsible shipping companies by encouraging new initiatives, and to disseminate best practice. The Commission plans to celebrate these ceremonies on a biannual basis through high profile events.

Wooden cabinet

Composting toilet

Box for sorting office recyclables

Waste bin



* Finland

FINLAND

Joensuu

FRANCE

Paris

GEORGIA

Tbilisi

Hamburg, Germany, 2004

GERMANY

Hamburg

GREECE

Athens

Athens, Greece, 2004

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bangor

IRELAND

Lorraine

NORWAY

Bergen

Oslo

Zakynthos

Nature is You

Tromso

ROMANIA

Arad

Green Cities.

Paraschiv Andrea Maria, 12 years old, Romania

RUSSIA

Nazran

SPAIN

Alcalá de Henares (Madrid)

Bilbao

SWITZERLAND

Gland

Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?

Plamena Ivanova, 12 years old, Bulgaria

Lausanne

Zurich

UNITED KINGDOM

Dorking

Hemel Hempstead

Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?

London

Preston

Surrey

UZBEKISTAN

Tashkent

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires

BRAZIL

São Paulo

CAYMAN ISLANDS

CHILE

Santiago

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

EL SALVADOR

Santo Tomas

GUYANA

Georgetown

HAITI

MEXICO

Mexico City

COLIBRI ECOTOURISM AWARD

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

Brampton, Ontario

Monterrey

PERU

Huancavelica

ST. MAARTEN

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Arima

Atlanta
USA, 2005

Electronic waste: Present and future. Am I Doing It Right?

New Brunswick

Our Climate - Our Change

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Atlanta

Green Cities: Plan for the Planet!

San Francisco, USA, 2005

Berkeley

Connecticut

New York City

Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?

Providence, Rhode Island

San Francisco

Sausalito, California

WEST ASIA

IRAQ

Baghdad and Halabja

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Manama

LEBANON

Beirut

Manama, Bahrain 2005

PALESTINE

QATAR

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Abu Dhabi

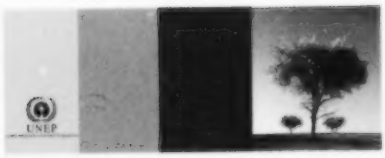
SYRIA

Homs

Dubai

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY • 5 June 2006

DESERTS AND DESERTIFICATION



DON'T DESERT DRYLANDS!